FishFlOW IEA

Fisheries and Floating Offshore Wind Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) for the Gulf Of Maine

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA): A way to include all aspects of an ecosystem, including human activities, into the management decision making processes.

Example: Annual State of the Ecosystem reports for the Northeast Fisheries Management Council.

Goals: Collaboratively work with ocean users to identify interactions between offshore wind, fisheries, and the environment, and provide tools to inform environmental analyses and reviews.

We need your input

How will offshore wind development affect fishing activities?

How can we measure the impact of offshore wind on the fishing industry?

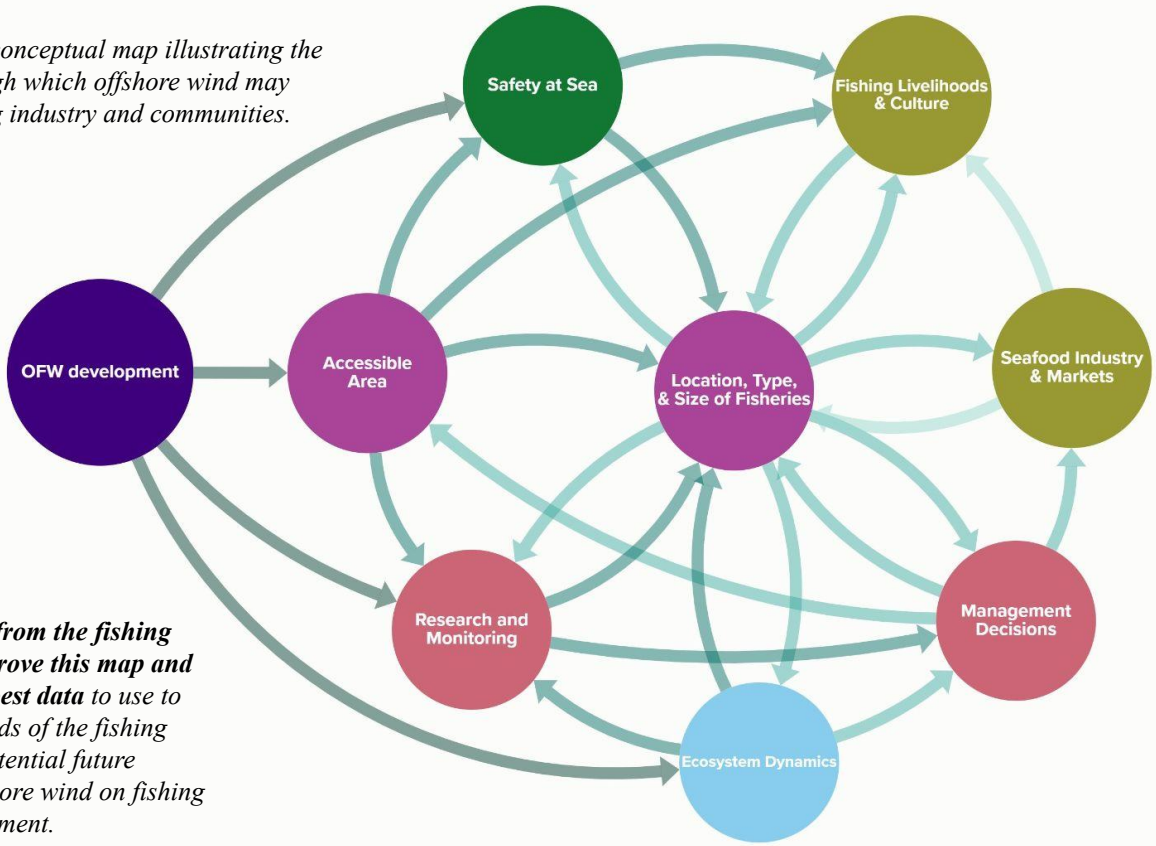
What data and knowledge is available to measure the impacts of offshore wind?

Our Approach

Steps of an IEA include (1) set ecosystem goals and objectives, (2) identify what data to monitor, (3) assess changes in the system and tradeoffs between management goals. Our approach to these steps are:

1. Identify important links between fishing, the environment, and offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine.
2. Discuss links, indicators, and data needs with the fishing industry, regulators, developers, and scientists.
3. Gather indicator data and knowledge to understand current conditions and monitor the potential future effects of offshore wind on fishing, and produce an IEA for stakeholder use and decision-making.

Figure: *Initial conceptual map illustrating the pathways through which offshore wind may influence fishing industry and communities.*



We need input from the fishing industry to improve this map and determine the best data *to use to monitor the needs of the fishing industry and potential future impacts of offshore wind on fishing and the environment.*

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Specific Project Objectives and Products:

- Map key links and interactions between offshore wind development, fisheries, and the environment in the Gulf of Maine.
- With stakeholder input and participation, identify key indicators and gather data that can help avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts and monitor effects of offshore wind development on fisheries and the environment.
- Assess and report on indicators, risks, and tradeoffs over time between offshore wind development, the fishing industry, and the environment by producing an IEA shared with managers and stakeholders.
- Ensure the project's products are applicable to the decision making process, circulated through existing management pathways, and useful to stakeholders.

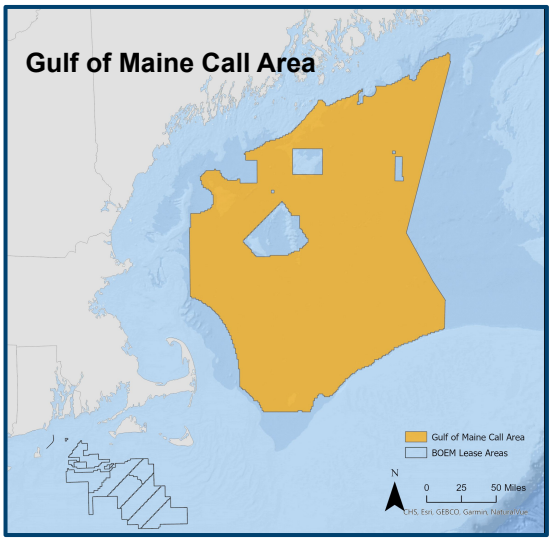
Why are we asking you to participate?

The participation and knowledge of fishers, industry, and members of the public is extremely important in the offshore wind planning process. Current decision-making spaces do not fully understand how offshore wind development might impact fisheries and fishing communities in the Gulf of Maine. **Local ecological, experiential, and technical knowledge will help improve this understanding.** With your participation, we can help managers avoid, minimize, and mitigate negative impacts of offshore wind on fisheries and the fishing industry.

How will this project affect offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine?

This project is intended to contribute to required environmental analyses and reviews prior to any construction and operations within lease areas, and to support further environmental review during development. **The IEA results will help NOAA Fisheries communicate risks to developers and regulators such as BOEM, and will support managers in monitoring effects of offshore wind on fisheries.** The IEA process will identify, communicate, and help monitor important factors that might not be emphasized in other ongoing analyses.

For more frequently asked questions please visit : https://rodafisheries.org/portfolio/iea/



For more Information

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